

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action dated June 16, 2005. Claims 1-40 are pending.

Claims 1, 13, 25, 29, 33 and 37 stand rejected under Section 102(b) [presumably Section 102(e) since Sato did not publish more than one year before applicant's filing date] as being allegedly anticipated by Sato (US 6,804,822). This Section 102 rejection is respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons.

Claims 1, 13 and 25 have been amended to require that *at least five of the bumps are included in a single magnetic bit*. For example non-limiting support, see the instant specification at page 51, lines 3-19. Sato fails to disclose or suggest that *at least five of the bumps are included in a single magnetic bit*. Thus, the Section 102 rejection must be withdrawn.

Claims 29, 33 and 37 have been amended to require that at least five of the bumps and/or concaves are included in a single magnetic bit. For example non-limiting support, see the instant specification at page 51, lines 3-19. Sato fails to disclose or suggest that *at least five of the bumps and/or concaves are included in a single magnetic bit*. Thus, the Section 102 rejection must be withdrawn.

All Section 103(a) rejections based on Sato must be withdrawn. Sato and the instant invention are commonly owned, and were commonly owned, at the time of the invention. Thus, Sato cannot be used in any Section 103 rejection.

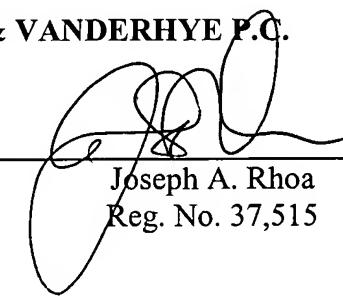
A certified English translation of priority document JP 2002-294169 has been filed herewith, thereby perfecting the priority thereon. Thus, applicants' priority date of October 7, 2002 pre-dates publication of Sato.

SATO, J. et al.
Appl. No. 10/679,696
October 17, 2005

In view of the above, all rejections must be withdrawn. All claims are in condition for allowance. If any minor matter remains to be resolved, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned with regard to the same.

Respectfully submitted,

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